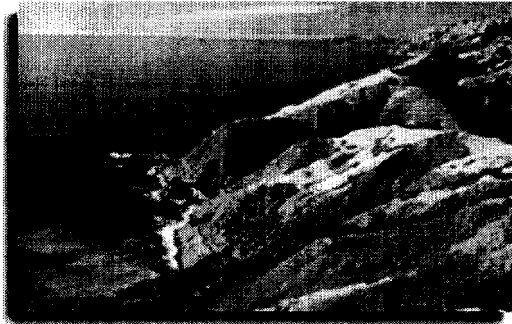


**Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve  
and the Big Creek Marine Ecological  
Reserve**



constantly expanded through acquisitions and donations.

The Library also serves as a cultural resource center, functioning as a public gallery/performance/workshop space for artists, writers, musicians and students. In addition, the Library supports education in the arts and the local environment and serves as a social center for the community with the only public internet access in Big Sur.

Protected by the Santa Lucia Mountains and rocky cliffs, the Big Sur coast includes the largest and most pristine coastal wilderness in central and southern California. In the center of this area, the University of California Natural Reserve System and the University of California, Santa Cruz operate two adjacent reserves, the 4200 acre Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve and the 1200 acre Big Creek Marine Ecological Reserve (the latter is co-managed with the California Department of Fish and Game, as part of their Marine Resources Protection Act [MRPA] Reserve System). At these sites the primary mission of the University is to provide, on a long-term basis, a "window" for studies of wilderness lands and wilderness marine waters. The combination of wilderness and program are unique, and the reserve continues to make important contributions to our knowledge of wild coastal ecosystems.

**Pacific Valley School**

A one school district on the South Coast of Big Sur on Highway One.

Pacific Valley School is a K-12 public school in Monterey County currently with about 50 students and a staff of about 20 full and part time employees.

Located on State Highway One about 70 miles south of Monterey on the Central Coast of California.

Because of the remote South Coast location, Pacific Valley School is on a four day per week session per legislation by the California State Legislature.

**amazon.com**

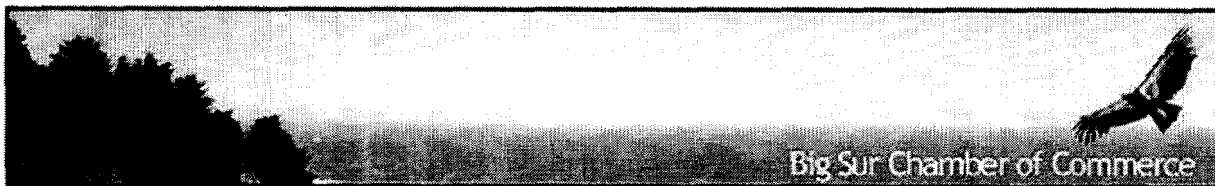
**Click here to purchase books about Big Sur**

**HOME**

Big Sur Chamber of Commerce <http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org> (831) 667-2100

**Big Sur Internet • [www.bigsurinternet.com](http://www.bigsurinternet.com)**



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[January](#) | [February](#) | [March](#) | [April](#) | [May](#) | [June](#) | [July](#) | [August](#) | [September](#) | [October](#) | [November](#) | [December](#)

If you missed the Halloween Bal Masque at Nepenthe this year, have a look-see at all the beautiful costumes. Photos supplied by Central Coast Magazine. [Click Here Now!](#)

## JANUARY 2002

January brings some of our nicest weather, although it does introduce the rainy season. The cool weather keeps the fog and haze away, offering up cool, yet clear blue skies in the daytime, and perfect weather for stargazing at night. Big Sur is known to astronomers as the best place in the country for observing the heavens because there is very little ambient light pollution.

Get a close up view of the [California Gray whales](#) as they make their annual southern journey from the frigid waters of the Bering and Chukchi Seas to the warm lagoons of Baja California. Each year the total population of the Gray Whales migrates twice along the coast of Big Sur. Once when going to Mexico (December-February) and once when returning to the Alaskan waters (March-May). Gray Whales are known to still have a few stragglers migrating up the coast throughout the summer months. Come see the California Gray Whale migration, easily visible from the roadside turnouts.

<b>January</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 <a href="#">Big Sur Arts Initiative</a> has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>January weekends</b>	10:00 a.m. to noon  Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park	(831) 667-2315 California State Parks, in association with Whale Fest, is proud to present Ranger guided Whale Watching Presentations. Come celebrate with us the migration of the California Gray Whales off the Big Sur Coast

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## FEBRUARY 2002

February is pretty quiet around here. To get a good idea of what life used to be during pioneer days and if you want the beaches or forests to yourself, this is the time to come. Bring your waders and fishing pole and explore the Big Sur River. Be sure to spend some time watching the Gray Whale migration. From most any roadside turnout you can see Gray Whales on their journey to the warm lagoons of Mexico. It may take a while to train your eyes to spot them. Watch for the spouts of water spraying in the air. They begin their return journey to the feeding grounds off the coast of Alaska as early as March and continue through spring.


<b>February</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>February</b>	Steelhead fishing season ends	(831) 649-2870 California Department of Fish & Game. The Steelhead season runs from November 16 to February 28. That's "Catch & Release," Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Fishing regulations can change from year to year, so contact the Department of Fish and Game at the telephone number above for the most accurate information.

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## MARCH 2002

Mother Gray whales and their calves swim close to shore on their return migration to the Arctic. Spring bulbs begin to blossom; willows and calla lillies bloom along the creeks and wild iris appear in the forest. The hills are emerald green.

<b>March</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>March</b>		See <a href="#">Gray Whales</a> for more information

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## APRIL 2002

April is springtime in the gardens of the world and Big Sur is no different. The hillsides come alive with California Poppies and wildflowers and the streams are still running clear and deep.

<b>APRIL</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>APRIL 7</b>	<u>POINT SUR LIGHTHOUSE</u>	(831) 649-4419 Beginning early April, through the beginning of October, monthly Moonlight Tours are held at Point Sur Lighthouse. First lit in 1889, it has remained in continuous operation and stands 361 feet above the surf on a large volcanic rock. Saturday and Sunday morning tours are available year round. Wednesday and Thursday tours available in the summer.
<b>APRIL 28</b>	<u>BIG SUR INTERNATIONAL MARATHON</u>	(831) 625-6226 Once again the Big Sur Marathon has been voted the BEST MARATHON in North America by the Ultimate Guide to Marathons. Join us in Big Sur for the most spectacular run in America. Also featuring 10k and other events. Visit their website or call for more information.

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## MAY 2002

In May, the emerald green hillsides are covered in California Poppies, Lupine, and wildflowers. The perfect month for a hike and a picnic. For information on hiking in the Ventana Wilderness call the Big Sur Station (831) 667-2315

The Ventana Wilderness Alliance maintains an On-Line Trail Conditions Report of most, if not all, trails in the Ventana Wilderness Area. This is the place to check for the most current online information about trails.

May	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
May 3, 4 & 5	<u>BIG SUR JAZZFEST</u>	(831) 667-1530 The Big Sur JazzFest is held annually throughout the pubs, restaurants, and art galleries of Big Sur. The main event takes place Sunday, May 6 in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, along the banks of the Big Sur River. Join us for one of the best weekends of jazz available in the most beautiful setting on the west coast. Call or visit their website for more information about artists and venues.
May ?	<u>Henry Miller Memorial Library</u>  Saturday; Noon - 8 PM Sunday; Noon - 8 PM	<u>(831) 667-2574 Big Sur International Experimental Music Festival</u> A wide variety of adventurous modern music: electronica, experimental improv, and ambient music from New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Austria, Australia, Germany, and Italy.  If you can't make it to the music festival, you can listen to it live on the web at <a href="http://www.kfjc.org/netcast.html">http://www.kfjc.org/netcast.html</a>



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## JUNE 2002

The Junior Ranger Program, guided nature walks and a nightly campfire program with slide shows, singing, and nature discussions begin in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. These programs extend through Labor Day.

Also of interest are the exhibits at the Nature Center (located in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park) which are designed to acquaint visitors with Big Sur's plant and animal life.

<b>JUNE</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>JUNE ~ AUGUST</b>	<u>VENTANA WILDERNESS SOCIETY</u>  Natural Science Discovery Camp	(831) 455-9514 or <a href="mailto:info@ventanaws.org">info@ventanaws.org</a>  The Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary is located in Andrew Molera State Park. A naturalist is available during summer months to describe bird banding programs and explain the work of the Sanctuary. A fascinating part of their work is the California Condor Reintroduction Program.
<b>JUNE 22</b>	<u>HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR</u> sponsored by the <u>BIG SUR ARTS INITIATIVE</u>	(831) 667-1530 This years Big Sur Garden Tour will include a return to the sculpture garden (a favorite from last year) and several new speakers and presenters. For more information call Big Sur Arts Initiative or visit their website.

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## JULY 2002

The Junior Ranger Program, guided nature walks and a nightly campfire program with slide shows, singing, and nature discussions begin in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. These programs extend through Labor Day.

Ventana Wilderness Society has a full schedule of events called Natural Science Discovery Camp for ages 8-11 and 12-17. Please visit their website for more information on this great youth program.

Also of interest are the exhibits at the Nature Center which are designed to acquaint visitors with Big Sur's plant and animal life. Located next to Andrew Molera State Park and the Ventana Wilderness Society. At this same location is the new Big Sur Cultural and Natural History Center, located in the "Ranch House."

### July

Henry Miller  
Memorial Library

(831) 667-2574 Henry Miller Library  
(Sure to have a full calendar in July- they just haven't turned it in yet. Check back soon.)

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## AUGUST 2002

August is a good month for family activities, tubing down the Big Sur River, exploring tide pools along the Big Sur beaches, having a barbecue in one of Big Sur's State Parks. Simply a beautiful time of year to be here. In the winter Big Sur is blessed with the Gray Whale migration. Summer brings us the largest mammals on earth, the Blue Whales. In addition the Humpback Whales, and Orcas are in town. Enjoy these giants from the roadside turnouts. Remember to bring your binoculars.

### August

Henry Miller  
Memorial Library

(831) 667-2574 ~Henry Miller Library  
(Sure to have a full calendar in July- they just haven't turned it in yet. Check back soon.)

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## SEPTEMBER 2002

September wends down the tourist season in Big Sur yet the weather is still some of the best of the year. Summer and Fall bring us the largest mammals on earth, the Blue Whales. In addition, the Humpback Whales and Orcas are swimming in our coastal waters at this time of the year. Soon to be replaced by the spectacular annual migration of the Gray Whales whose total population swims by our coastline twice every year. Once when going to the lagoons of Mexico to birth and breed, and once when returning to the Alaskan waters to feed for the summer. Enjoy these amazing adaptations to life on the blue, watery planet conveniently from the roadside turnouts. Bring binoculars. Some of the best theater in town!

### SEPTEMBER ~

Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...

**(831) 667-1530** Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.

### SEPTEMBER ~ TBA

VENTANA WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Big Sur Ornithology Lab Fall Birding Challenge

**(831) 455-9514** or [info@ventanaws.org](mailto:info@ventanaws.org)  
The Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary is located in Andrew Molera State Park. A naturalist is available during summer months to describe bird banding programs and explain the work of the Sanctuary. A fascinating part of their work is the California Condor Reintroduction Program.

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## OCTOBER 2002

October brings Indian summer days with bright blue skies. The forest comes alive with color as leaves of deciduous trees turn golden. Monarch butterflies return to their annual wintering grounds and can be seen by the hundreds at Pfeiffer Beach.

<b>OCTOBER</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>OCTOBER ?</b>	<u>10th Annual Big Sur Jade Festival</u>	805-927-5574 Each year the Jade Festival brings musicians, artists, crafts people, and rockhounds together in an annual fundraiser for the South Coast Community Land Trust. Held at Pacific Valley School. Friday's hours are from 12-6, Sat. and Sun. from 10-6 Call for more information.
<b>OCTOBER ?</b>	<u>EnviroSports</u>	(415) 868-1829 12th Annual Big Sur Trail Marathon, half marathon and 8 mile run at Andrew Molera State Park. Enviro-Sports is a club specializing in unique environmental outings and environmental education, and supports trail maintenance and habitat restoration in the various parks in which we run to preserve wilderness and parklands.

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## NOVEMBER 2002

November begins the Steelhead Salmon fishing season and the very early, most ambitious Gray Whales begin their migration to the lagoons of Mexico.

Twice every year the total Gray Whale population migrates past the Big Sur coastline. Spectacular viewing is available from nearly any roadside turnout. Bring your binoculars and get up close and personal.

<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530	Big Sur Arts Initiative has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	STEEL HEAD SEASON	(831) 649-2870	The Steelhead season runs from November 16 to February 28. Call for more information
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<u>21st Annual Big Sur Harvest &amp; Craft Fair</u> at the Big Sur Grange Hall	(831) 667-2557	21st Annual Big Sur Harvest & Craft Fair. Thanksgiving Weekend. Saturday & Sunday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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## DECEMBER 2001



Take a break from the holiday bustle. Off season rates make early December an economical way to experience the quiet beauty of Big Sur. The clear December skies make the night time star gazing spectacular and the day time sight seeing down the coast is equally amazing. Big Sur is known to astronomers as the best place in the country for viewing the heavens because there is so little "light pollution."

During the daytime hours one can while away the time watching the spectacular sites of the Gray Whale migration as they make their way to the lagoons of Mexico to have their babies. Overhead one can view the equally spectacular site of the California Condor in flight. The Ventana Wilderness Society will be further adding to the growing population of California Condors who are now living in Big Sur. Learn more about the California Condor Reintroduction program by visiting our Condor information page.

<b>DECEMBER</b>	Big Sur Arts Initiative "Drop-In Art Workshops" and more...	(831) 667-1530 <u>Big Sur Arts Initiative</u> has a series of "Drop-In Art Workshops." Check out their website to see what's available. Monthly, except July & August.
<b>DECEMBER 7-9</b>	<u>Henry Miller Memorial Library</u>	(831) 667-2574 <b>The 5th Annual Big Sur Children's Writing Workshop.</b> The Big Sur Children's Writing Workshop is directed to people who are searching for insights into children's book writing, have a finished or near- finished manuscript, and have received encouragement from either an editor or agent. Through one-on-one personal meetings, small-group evaluations, panel discussions and much sharing of information, the goal is to have participants leave Big Sur with the knowledge and insight on how to make their work polished and ready for submission and acceptance by publishers. In order to achieve this goal, we have recruited professional people in the children's book field, as well as those who are most supportive and giving to new writers, including: (visit the Henry Miller Library for more information.)
<b>DECEMBER 25</b>	<u>NEW CAMOLDOLI HERMITAGE</u>	(831) 667-2787 Celebrate Christmas mass with the Camaldoli brothers on the mountain slopes above Lucia, a beautiful 26 mile drive down the coast from Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park.
<b>DECEMBER 31</b>	First Night Monterey	(831) 667-1530 The Floating Gardens Mobile Project with the Big Sur Arts Initiative. BSAI has taken First Place in the competition on many occasions. Come join the fun!



## Art Galleries & Gift Shops

**BIG SUR ARTS CENTER** Home to the Big Sur Arts Initiative, a local nonprofit arts enrichment organization. The Center offers a fine arts gallery and teaching space for classes, workshops and seminars in the arts. The Big Sur Arts Center, located in the Village Shops adjacent to the Big Sur River Inn, is also home to the Big Sur JazzFest and the Hidden Gardens Tour. For information visit on the web - [www.bigsurarts.org](http://www.bigsurarts.org) or call (831) 667-1530.

**BIG SUR BAZAAR** (located at the Post Office Center) Offering a wide assortment of unique gift items, jewelry, books, pottery, and a large selection of t-shirts and quality sweatshirts. The Bazaar also offers video rentals, music and an extensive camping department. Open daily from 9 am to 5 pm (831) 667-2197

**BIG SUR GARDEN COMPANY** offers sculpture, plants, pottery, and outdoor furniture in the historic cactus garden next to the Big Sur Bakery. (831) 667-2818

**BIG SUR LODGE GIFT SHOP** An array of eclectic gifts, State Park souvenirs, jewelry, pottery & the largest selection of T-shirts & sweatshirts in the area. 8 am - 9pm daily (831) 667-3108 [www.bigsurlodge.com](http://www.bigsurlodge.com)

**COAST GALLERY** Since 1958 the gallery has been the historic showplace for local artists & coastal craftsmen. Gallery, gift shop, candle studio & boutique. Open 9-5 daily. Also featuring Henry Miller Museum at Coast Gallery exhibits the fine art prints & art memorabilia of Big Sur's most famous resident. Open 9-5 daily (831) 667-2301 [www.coastgalleries.com](http://www.coastgalleries.com)

**HAWTHORNEGALLERY** Featuring the work of the multi-talented Hawthorne family and top quality local and international artists. The gallery overlooks the Pacific ocean and offers contemporary painting, granite and steel indoor/outdoor sculpture, blown glass, wood sculpture, forced steel furniture, ceramics, and cloisonné. Renowned artists include Albert Paky, Barbara Spring, and Edmund Kara. (831) 667-3200 [www.hawthornegallery.com](http://www.hawthornegallery.com)

**HEARTBEAT GIFT GALLERY** An adventure in shopping for the unusual, exotic, and erotic. You will be entertained by the great variety, choice, and quality of jewelry, clothing, and collectibles from around the world along with our own local artists. Located next to the Big Sur River Inn. (831) 667-2557 [www.heartbeatbigsur.com](http://www.heartbeatbigsur.com)

**HENRY MILLER LIBRARY** a non-profit organization championing the works of the American author, artist & Big Sur resident, Henry Miller. An art gallery with a treasure of fine books, art & history of the area. Many items, including rare books, are for sale. Available for special events. Open Wednesday-Sunday, 11 am - 6 pm Free Internet Access. (831) 667-2574. [www.henrymiller.org](http://www.henrymiller.org)

**LOCAL COLOR** Central Coast Artisans Gallery. It is our vision to give the many talented artisans in our area a place to proudly display their hand made goods. Our unique collection represents the many types of people and personalities attracted to such a special area. (831) 667-0481

**NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE** Offering cards, books, prints, paintings, incense, fruitcake & datenut cake. (831) 667-2456 [www.contemplation.com](http://www.contemplation.com)

**POST RANCH MERCANTILE** Presents fine goods from Post Ranch Inn, including beautiful tableware, home accessories, natural clothing and bedding, natural bodycare products, and much more. Open 9:30 am-5pm daily. (831) 667-2795 [www.postranchinn.com](http://www.postranchinn.com)

**THE GARDEN GALLERY** Big Sur art and crafts, jewelry, clothing and herbal products at Loma Vista. Open 10 am daily (831) 667-2000

**THE PHOENIX SHOP** is located at Nepenthe, offering a unique collection of gifts, books, jewelry, toys & clothing. Open 10:30 am-7 pm (831) 667-2347 [www.nepenthebigsur.com](http://www.nepenthebigsur.com)

**THE STORE AT VENTANA** features jewelry, pottery, gifts, clothing & more. The adjacent Gallery at Ventana showcases fine art by local artists. Open 9 am-10 pm daily. (831) 667-2787

## Campgrounds

**ANDREW MOLERA STATE PARK** at mouth of Big Sur River. Walk in 1/4 mile to campground sites in open meadow setting; sites are not reservable. 4,800 acres with hiking, surfing, and picnic tables. (831) 667-2315

**BIG SUR CAMPGROUND & CABINS** Year-round family camping among the redwood trees along the Big Sur River. Store, laundry, playground, and basketball court. Inner tubing on the river. Tent camping with hot showers. RV camping w/water & electric hook-ups as well as a dump station. (831) 667-2322

**BOTTCHERS GAP** U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 12 sites. Tent sites only. Winter & Summer. Bring water (805) 434-1996

**FERNWOOD** An all-purpose stop featuring a 60-unit campground located in a redwood forest along the Big Sur River. (831) 667-2422

**KIRK CREEK CAMPGROUND** U.S. Forest Service campground featuring 34 sites. Hike & Bike Camp \$ 5.00 per person (805) 434-1996

**LIMEKILN CREEK STATE PARK CAMPGROUND** Enjoy 660 acres, camping on beach and in redwoods, hot showers. Adjoining the National Forest, hiking trails, surf & fishing. Visit the historic lime kiln. (831) 667-2403

**PFEIFFER-BIG SUR STATE PARK** This 810-acre park offers camping (218 sites, no hook-ups, sanitation station), picnic tables, hiking & swimming. (800) 444-7275.

**PLASKETT CREEK CAMPGROUND** U.S. Forest Service Campground. 44 Sites. Winter & Summer, Hike & Bike Camp \$ 5.00 per person. Group site reservations (877) 444-6777 (805) 434-1996

**RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND & CABINS** Camp among redwoods or on the river. Playground & laundry facilities. Fishing in season & swimming in the Big Sur River. Electric & water hook-ups. (831) 667-2414

**VENTANA CAMPGROUND** is set in a 40-acre redwood grove & is open year-round. Many private sites. (831) 667-2712 [www.ventanawildernesscampground.com](http://www.ventanawildernesscampground.com)

## Big Sur Events

**BIG SUR INTERNATIONAL MARATHON** Annually on the last Sunday in April. Voted best marathon in North America. (831) 625-6226 [www.bsim.org](http://www.bsim.org)

**BIG SUR JAZZFEST** (7th Annual) - May 3 & 4, 02 Three days of world-class jazz music in various Big Sur Venues. Friday and Saturday performances take place at local Big Sur restaurants and watering holes. The weekend culminates with "Sunday in the Park," when seven bands play from 11 AM to 6 PM in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. All proceeds from the JazzFest go to support musical enrichment for the Big Sur community. [www.bigsurjazz.org](http://www.bigsurjazz.org) or call - (831) 667-1530

**BIG SUR RIVER RUN** (21st Annual) - October 27, 2002 "The most beautiful run in the world." Before there was a Big Sur Marathon, there was the River Run. Runners at this annual event enjoy a level course through the redwoods. Entertainment, prizes and local support make this a fun event for everyone. On the web at [www.BigSurRiverRun.org](http://www.BigSurRiverRun.org) or call (831) 624-4112

**HENRY MILLER LIBRARY 4th ANNUAL BIG SUR EXPERIMENTAL MUSIC FESTIVAL**, May 2002: Wide variety of adventurous modern international music. Participants from around the world!  
**5th ANNUAL WEST COAST POETRY SLAM**, July 2002. Teams of poets from Seattle to San Diego duke it out on the lawn. [www.henrymiller.org](http://www.henrymiller.org) (831) 667-2574

**HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR** - June 22, 2002 This one-day tour brings guests to various private gardens around Big Sur. It is a self-driving, self-guided tour and includes presenters, artists and musicians in the gardens and a tour of the Children's Garden, a community teaching garden at Captain Cooper School. All proceeds from the tour support arts and gardening enrichment in the Big Sur community. For information, visit our web site - [www.hiddengardens.org](http://www.hiddengardens.org) or call (831) 667-1530.

## Miscellaneous Services

**A BIG SUR AFFAIR** Specializing in weddings and special events. Services include full scale catering, wedding coordination and site selection. (831) 667-1050

**BEN HEINRICH REAL ESTATE** (831) 625-6225

**BIG SUR ARTS INITIATIVE** - a nonprofit organization serving children and families through the arts. Preenter of the Big Sur JazzFest and the Big Sur Hidden Garden Tour. For information call (831) 667-1530 [www.bigsurarts.org](http://www.bigsurarts.org)

**BIG SUR COAST FOODS** Complete catering, weddings, and special event planning - 6 course dinners to Big Sur BBQ's. Chef: David Dildine Coordinator: JudyShare. (831) 667-2217 [www.bigsurcoastfoods.com](http://www.bigsurcoastfoods.com)

**BIG SUR GARAGE & TOWING** offers 24-hour emergency services, lock outs, RV towing, auto repair, tires. AAA approved. (831) 667-2181 [www.bigsurgarage.com](http://www.bigsurgarage.com)

**BIG SUR GUIDED HIKES; Guide Services.** Experience the best Big Sur has to offer! Educational and adventure tours. Guided interpretive walks. Fully catered wilderness camping expeditions. See the seldom seen wonders only a local guide can show you! All abilities welcome. (831) 622-7777 E-mail: [HikeBigSur@Redshift.com](mailto:HikeBigSur@Redshift.com)

**BIG SUR INTERNATIONAL MARATHON** Held annually on the last Sunday in April (831) 625-6226 [www.bsim.org](http://www.bsim.org)

**BIG SUR INTERNET**, web site hosting, design, maintenance (831) 667-8850 [www.bigsurinternet.com](http://www.bigsurinternet.com)

**BIG SUR MINISTER** Penny Veregge. Develop your ceremony to celebrate your joy as you move to a deeper level of commitment. (831) 667-2115

**BIG SUR PROPERTIES** (831) 667-2222 Fax (831) 667-2226

**BIG SUR WEDDINGS** with Ric Masten. Unitarian minister & nationally known poet performs unique Big Sur style outdoor wedding celebrations. (831) 625-0588 [www.ricmasten.com](http://www.ricmasten.com)

**BLAZE ENGINEERING INC.** (831) 667-2697

**CYNTHIA JOHNSON-BIANCHETTA** Fine art photography for those exquisite moments (831) 667-2502

**ELEGANT EVENTS** - Specializing in Big Sur weddings and receptions with exclusive sites to choose from. Offering a wide variety of services and styles. (831) 625-3523

**FUN WEDDINGS** - Photography and other services. (831) 667-2235

**JERRY SCHIFF C.P.A.** (831) 667-2587

**JOHN SAAR PROPERTIES** (831) 625-0500 [www.johnsaarproperties.com](http://www.johnsaarproperties.com)

**KATE HEALEY** Beautiful, romantic, fragrant floral arrangements for weddings and all occasions. Serving Big Sur since 1985. Free delivery to all locations. (831) 667-2649

**KIRA GODBE PHOTOGRAPHY** Sensitive & romantic photographic coverage of your wedding. Familiar with many beautiful locations. (831) 625-5799 [www.carmelphotography.com](http://www.carmelphotography.com)

**MOLERA HORSEBACK TOURS** offers scenic coastal horseback tours daily in Andrew Molera State Park, April 1 through January 1, weather permitting. Variety of rides and prices. No experience necessary. Walk-ins are welcome. (831) 625-5486 or (800)-942-5486.

**PINNEY CONSTRUCTION** (831) 667-2641

**SURENITY MASSAGE STUDIO** Offering a full range of therapeutic body work in a private professional setting at Loma Vista Gardens. (831) 667-1727

**TOM GALLOWAY PHOTOGRAPHY** Weddings, portraits & aerial photography. (831) 333-9107

**WEDDINGS WITH KEN ROBINS** Licensed minister (831) 667-8217 [www.weddingswithkenrobins.com](http://www.weddingswithkenrobins.com)

## Lodging

**BIG SUR CAMPGROUND & CABINS** A variety of cabins in a redwood grove along the Big Sur River. Most with fully equipped kitchens and fireplaces. Summer tent cabins along the river. Inner tubing on the river. Store, laundry, playground, and basketball court. Reservations recommended. (831) 667-2322

**BIG SUR LODGE** Lies within ancient groves of redwoods and oaks in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. Gorgeous views of the Santa Lucia Mountains, 61 cottage style units, many with fireplaces and/or kitchens, accommodate up to 6 people. Resort includes scenic Big Sur River and hiking trails, heated pool, gift shop, restaurant & general store. (831) 667-3100 or (800) 424-4787. [www.bigsurlodge.com](http://www.bigsurlodge.com)

**BIG SUR RIVER INN** features 20 cozy guest-rooms, restaurant & a heated swimming pool on the Big Sur River. Also features a gas station, a store stocked with natural foods & convenience items. (831) 667-2700 or (800) 548-3610. [www.bigsurriverinn.com](http://www.bigsurriverinn.com)

**DEETJEN'S BIG SUR INN** Offering lodging in a quaint Norwegian-style setting. Nestled in the redwoods of Castro Canyon, the inn has 20 rooms. Advanced reservations suggested. (831) 667-2377

**ESALEN INSTITUTE** conducts residential workshops which emphasize potentialities and values of human existence. Weekend and 5-day programs are offered year round. Natural hot springs by the ocean. Catalog available on request. (831) 667-3005 [www.esalen.org](http://www.esalen.org)

**FERNWOOD** features 12 motel-style units located in a redwood forest. (831) 667-2422

**GLEN OAKS MOTEL** An attractive, modern post adobe motel in a gracious garden setting. 17 clean and comfortable single story units are available all year. Moderately priced. (831) 667-2105 [www.glenoaksbigsur.com](http://www.glenoaksbigsur.com)

**GORDA SPRINGS COTTAGES** Private, romantic cottages with stunning ocean views. Each cottage has its own private patio overlooking the ocean, some with fireplaces and Jacuzzis. Available on a nightly or weekly basis. (805) 927-4600 or (805) 927-3918 [www.bigsurgordasprings.com](http://www.bigsurgordasprings.com)

**LUCIA** Coastal cabins with stunning views of the rugged South Coast. Overnight accommodations range from single units with double beds, to the honey-moon cottage's breathtaking view, queen-size four poster bed, and sitting room. (831) 667-2391

**NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE** is a community of Catholic Benedictine monks. You are welcome to join the monks for prayer. Guests are invited in our liturgical worship, but this is not required. Book Store, Gift Shop and Chapel. Retreat accommodations are available by reservation. (831) 667-2456 [www.contemplation.com](http://www.contemplation.com)

**POST RANCH INN** offers 30 luxurious guest rooms with unique architecture on a ridge above the sea. 98 acres with two pools, private decks, spa tubs, deluxe amenities and complimentary activities. A Mobil 4-Star Resort. (831) 667-2200 or (800) 527-2200 [www.postranchinn.com](http://www.postranchinn.com)

**RAGGED POINT INN & RESORT** 21 cozy romantic rooms nestled cliff side between the Pacific Ocean and Los Padres National Forest. Includes friendly staff, gourmet restaurant, convenience store, snack, and espresso bars plus ornamental gardens and gas. Located 15 miles north of Hearst Castle. (805) 927-4502 [www.raggedpointinn.net](http://www.raggedpointinn.net)

**RIPPLEWOOD RESORT** Cabins situated in the redwoods along the Big Sur River. Also features a convenience store, gas station, & a cafe. (831) 667-2242 [www.ripplewoodresort.com](http://www.ripplewoodresort.com)

**RIVERSIDE CAMPGROUND & CABINS** offers cabins in the redwoods next to the Big Sur River. Also features a playground and laundry facilities. (831) 667-2414

**THE GROWING EDGE** Poised on "the edge," overlooking the Pacific directly below, offering an ideal setting for rest and rejuvenation. Personal retreats, wellness program, individual consultation and massage are available. (831) 667-2366 [www.growingedge.org](http://www.growingedge.org)

**VENTANA INN & SPA** A year-round Mobil 4-star Country Inn that offers elegant but casual accommodations. There are 62 guestrooms whose private terraces overlook mountain or ocean. Heated swimming pools. Hot baths, saunas & private hot tubs. (831) 667-2331 or (800) 628-6500 [www.ventanainn.com](http://www.ventanainn.com)

## Church Services

**NEW CAMALDOLI HERMITAGE** is a community of Catholic Benedictine monks. You are welcome to join the monks for prayer at the following times: Eucharist Monday thru Saturday 11:30 am, Sunday 11 am. Please call for other times (831) 667-2456 [www.contemplation.com](http://www.contemplation.com)

**SANTA LUCIA CHAPEL** An outdoor setting, located on Highway One near the Big Sur Campgrounds & Cabins. Santa Lucia Chapel is a Mission of All Saints Episcopal Church, Carmel. (831) 624-3883

**ST. FRANCIS OF THE REDWOODS** Catholic chapel. Mass 10:30 a.m. on Sunday. Located just south of Glen Oaks. (831) 624-1271

## Restaurants

**BIG SUR BAKERY** Located at historic Loma Vista. Serving fresh pastries, breads, pizza, and more - baked daily in a wood fire oven. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner in a garden setting. Sweeping views of Big Sur Valley. Beer & wine. (831) 667-0520

**BIG SUR CENTER DELI** (located at the Post Office Center) - offers a complete take-out selection of freshly prepared food & deli items for breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Pizza on Monday & Friday evenings; also featuring an extensive offering of fine wines, beer, and a complete selection of groceries. Open daily from 8:00 am - 8:30 pm (831) 667-2225

**BIG SUR LODGE RESTAURANT & ESPRESSO HOUSE** Indoor and patio dining on the banks of the Big Sur River. Freshly prepared foods served in a spacious, airy atmosphere with views of the redwoods. Children welcome. Breakfast, lunch and dinner. Fresh pastries, specialty coffees and teas. We are happy to prepare take out meals. (831) 667-3111 [www.bigsurlodge.com](http://www.bigsurlodge.com)

**BIG SUR RIVER INN** Breakfast, lunch & dinner are served daily by a huge stone fireplace or on a deck overlooking the Big Sur River. Live entertainment on Sunday afternoons. (831) 667-2700, (800) 548-3610. [www.bigsurriverinn.com](http://www.bigsurriverinn.com)

**BIG SUR VILLAGE PUB** Located in the Village Shops, the pub features specialty beers & a pub style menu. (831) 667-2355

**BONITO ROADHOUSE** Innovative roadhouse fare with a gourmet twist! A favorite of locals! Homemade pasta and desserts, along with many vegetarian items and daily specials. Located on Hwy 1 across from the Glen Oaks Motel. Open for dinner nightly at 5:30 pm. Check for winter hours. (831) 667-2264

**CAFE KEVAH** offers brunch & light lunch in an outdoor setting. Located on a terrace just below Nepenthe. Open March through December, 9am-4pm. (831) 667-2344. [www.nepenthebigsur.com](http://www.nepenthebigsur.com)

**CIELO** With 50-mile vistas from its outdoor terrace, Cielo offers simple, innovative menus featuring seasonal ingredients. Open for lunch and dinner 7 days a week, bar open noon to midnight. Located at Ventana Inn (831) 667-2331 [www.ventanainn.com](http://www.ventanainn.com)

**COAST CAFE** Serves lunch, baked goods, coffee and estate bottled wines. Located at Coast Gallery. (831) 667-2301

**DEETJEN'S BIG SUR INN** Offers food in a quaint old world setting. Breakfast is served 8 am - Noon. Dinner is served from 6pm. Reservations recommended. (831) 667-2378

**FERNWOOD** An all-purpose stop featuring a restaurant. (831) 667-2422

**NEPENTHE** One of the most picturesque dining spots in California, this restaurant overlooks 40 miles of coastline. Family-owned since 1949. Open daily, 11:30 am - 10 pm (831) 667-2345 [www.nepenthebigsur.com](http://www.nepenthebigsur.com)

**RAGGED POINT RESTAURANT** Unsurpassed original gourmet cuisine from the kitchen of chef Roger Wall professionally presented in an enchanting garden setting with a 360 degree ocean/mountain view. (805) 927-5708 [www.raggedpointinn.net](http://www.raggedpointinn.net)

**RIPPLEWOOD CAFE** Serving home-style breakfast & lunch & a grocery store with coffee & sandwiches to go. (831) 667-2242 [www.ripplewoodresort.com](http://www.ripplewoodresort.com)

**ROCKY POINT RESTAURANT** open every day for breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and appetizers. Ocean terrace complete with open-pit fireplace and gazebo. Candle light sunset dinners with our powerful floodlights illuminating the surf. (831) 624-2933 [www.rocky-point.com](http://www.rocky-point.com)

**SAN SIMEON BEACH BAR & GRILL** 3 miles South of Hearst Castle at the southern edge of the Big Sur Coast. Since 1958. Panoramic ocean view. Seafood, steaks, burgers, prime rib, fish & chips, pizza, sandwiches etc., Groups welcome. Fun and cozy cocktail lounge w/ fireplace & ocean view. Take-out, ATM, pool tables, gift shop. Next to hotels. (805) 927-4604 [www.sansimeonrestaurant.com](http://www.sansimeonrestaurant.com)

**SIERRA MAR RESTAURANT** Enjoy a spectacular ocean view over a light lunch or dinner of eclectic California cuisine. Wine Spectator Grand Award. Breathtaking views of the coastline from the elevation of 1,149 feet. Reservations required. (831) 667-2800 [www.postranchinn.com](http://www.postranchinn.com)

**WHALEWATCHER CAFE** Open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner for indoor or patio seaside dining. Featuring creative California cuisine and irresistible homemade desserts, beer & wine. Available for special events and weddings. Located at Gorda Springs. (805) 927-1590 [www.bigsurgordasprings.com/](http://www.bigsurgordasprings.com/)

Visit us on the web at  
<http://www.bigsurcalifornia.org>  
Telephone (831) 667-2100







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## About the Henry Miller Library

### History and Purpose

The Henry Miller Library (also known as the "Henry Miller Memorial Library, Founded by Emil White") was created by Emil White, a longtime friend of Miller. Located in Big Sur, 35 miles south of Carmel-by-the-Sea on Highway One, the Library occupies White's former home.

White moved to Big Sur in 1944 to serve as caretaker and personal secretary to Henry Miller. The two had met in Chicago in 1942. In the 1960's White bought the property, a lush meadow surrounded by towering redwoods, on which the Library now stands. The main building was built in 1966 on the site of the Graves Canyon landfill created during the construction of Highway One in the 1930's. The caretaker's cottage adjacent to the main house was added shortly thereafter. Other changes have been made piecemeal since 1981.

After Miller died in 1980, Emil decided to maintain his property as a memorial to his friend and as a gallery where local artists could show their work. In 1981, with the assistance of the Big Sur Land Trust (BSLT), he converted his home into the Library. Emil spent the rest of his life as director of the new institution, which evolved into a local center for the arts.

At his death in 1989, White bequeathed the "HENRY MILLER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, FOUNDED BY EMIL WHITE," to the BSLT. "With this bequest," White wrote in his Last Will and Testament, "I am encouraging support and maintenance of said Library, and to promote and enhance the scholarly research and worldwide enjoyment of Henry Miller's literary and artistic works."

The mission of the Big Sur Land Trust is to focus on preserving Big Sur as an invaluable natural resource. The mission of the Henry Miller Library is to promote the literary and artistic works of Henry Miller, and to serve as a cultural and educational resource for residents of and visitors to Big Sur.

In 1997, with the growing awareness that these two mission statements were quite different from one another the Library staff, with the blessings of the BSLT, began the process of becoming an independent 501(c)3 organization. That process is near completion.

### Henry Miller in Big Sur

Henry Miller (1891-1980) is, in the words of one of his biographers, "one of the most famous-and infamous-writers of the twentieth century." During the eighteen years he spent living in Big Sur, he turned out some of his finest work, including *The Rosy Crucifixion*, a three-volume epic about his life with his second wife, June; and *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, the story of his life in the region.

Miller fell in love with the rugged, isolated region on his first visit in 1944, and decided to move there almost immediately. Upon his arrival in Big Sur, Miller wrote, "Here I will find peace. Here I shall find the strength to do the work I was made to do." He also became part of a literary and artistic community that included Emil White, Jaime de Angulo, Lillian Bos Ross and her husband Harrydick, Ephraim Doner, and others.

When he first moved to Big Sur, Miller was struggling to make ends meet. Within four years of his arrival, royalties from overseas enabled him to live comfortably in Big Sur, even providing him with the resources to purchase a house on Partington Ridge. Here, with his third wife, Lepska, he raised his two children, Valentine and Tony.

We should  
not stop  
to reflect,  
compare,  
analyze,  
possess,  
but flow  
on and  
through,  
endlessly,  
like  
music.

--Henry  
Miller

Living in Big Sur obviously had a profound effect on Miller, inspiring him to write: "Peace and solitude! I have had a taste of it, even here in America." The Big Sur landscape gave him "such a feeling of contentment, such a feeling of gratitude was mine that instinctively my hand went up in benediction. Blessings! Blessings on you, one and all! I blessed the trees, the birds, the dogs, the cats, I blessed the flowers, the pomegranates, the thorny cactus, I blessed men and women everywhere, no matter on what side of the fence they happened to be."

Miller lived in Big Sur until 1962, when he moved to Pacific Palisades, where he resided until his death in 1980.

### **Emil White, Library Founder**

Emil White was one of Henry Miller's closest friends and confidants. Miller, in fact, dedicated Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch to White, describing him as "One of the few friends who has never failed me." While he is known primarily for his association with Miller, White was one of Big Sur's most colorful characters and a remarkable person in his own right.

Born in Austria in 1901, White journeyed to Budapest during World War I, where he was arrested as a revolutionary. Just 15 at the time, he was condemned to death but amazingly escaped. Two years after his brush with a firing squad, White immigrated to the United States.

There, in 1942, he met Miller in Chicago outside a bookstore where White worked. Though Miller's work was virtually unknown in the U.S., White was already a great fan of the struggling writer. The two men became fast friends, and when Miller moved to Big Sur two years later, he asked White to join him as a caretaker and personal secretary, eventually paying him \$5 a week to handle his correspondence.

In Big Sur, White started to paint. "Painting satisfied my need for creativity," he said. "It gave me a feeling of great accomplishment." White's charming oils and watercolors, distinctively primitive in style, remain today among the most popular images of the Big Sur coast.

To support himself in Big Sur, White published tour guides. These sold well and helped him achieve the financial security that ultimately enabled him to purchase the property that is now the Henry Miller Library. After establishing the Library, White spent his remaining years as director of the new institution, which evolved into a local center of the arts.

While Miller chose to spend his final years in Los Angeles, White remained in Big Sur until his death in 1989. In an interview he gave shortly before his death, White was asked whether he had any regrets. He responded, "I only wished I had moved to Big Sur sooner."

### **Purpose**

#### **Mission Statement**

The Henry Miller Library is a public benefit, non-profit organization championing the literary, artistic and cultural contributions of the late writer, artist and Big Sur resident Henry Miller. The Library also serves as a cultural resource center, functioning as a public gallery/performance/workshop space for artists, writers, musicians and students. In addition, the Library supports education in the arts and the local environment. Finally, the Library serves as a social center for the community.

#### **The Library Today**

The Henry Miller Library serves as its founder Emil White intended, by promoting the literature and art of Henry Miller. Library visitors range from the many familiar with Miller's work who are delighted to find a center honoring him, to those who are at first merely curious, then intrigued, by this important figure in American literature. The Library staff acts as docents for its guests, who come from all over the world. More and more visitors learn about the Library's existence by viewing this website.

Concerts, workshops, educational fairs, and art exhibits, both indoors and in the natural redwood amphitheater on the Library's grounds, happen at this

unique community center. Poetry readings, lectures, memorial services and celebrations also occur regularly at the Library. The beauty of the site, a lush meadow surrounded by towering redwood trees, and the ease of access directly off Highway One, appeals to residents and visitors alike.

The Library is an informal meeting place, offering office space and computer time to various environmental and educational groups.

### **People and Groups the Organization Serves**

The Henry Miller Library serves three main groups of visitors: local residents both from Monterey County and Big Sur [40%], California residents [30%], and foreign tourists especially from Japan, France and Germany, where Miller is more well-known than he is in the U.S. [30%].

Big Sur enjoys a worldwide artistic and literary reputation almost as great as its reputation for breathtaking natural beauty. Many visitors from all over the world are drawn to Big Sur because of Henry Miller, and the library staff directs these tourists to Miller's work, the Library's permanent collection of his art work and rare editions of his writing, as well as videos featuring the author and his literary and artistic companions. Poetry, fiction, non-fiction and artwork by contemporaries of Miller and many of the works influenced by him also grace the Library's shelves walls and grounds, including the tiles of Ephraim Doner.

The Library celebrates our local history and culture. It is available as a meeting place and computer resource center for various nonprofit community organizations serving Big Sur; it hosts concerts, lectures, poetry readings and artists' and writers' receptions; it offers workshops in the arts and hosts educational events.

Some of the community groups and events the Library supports include:

The Big Sur Home Schooling Project  
[Big Sur Arts Initiative](#)  
[The Big Sur JazzFest](#)  
CoastWatch  
The Big Sur Children's Writers Workshop  
The Big Sur Annual Winter Art Show  
Pfeiffer Beach Defense Fund  
Friends of the Big Sur River

As part of its Henry Miller Library Arts and Education Program, the Library actively seeks funding to underwrite community art, literary, educational and environmental projects; children's educational workshops; musical events; and other appropriate workshops.

### **Events and Ongoing Programs**

#### **West Coast Regional Poetry Slam**

This past summer HML hosted the 1998 West Coast Regional Poetry Slam, featuring five-poet teams from Los Angeles, San Francisco, Long Beach, San Jose and Santa Cruz. Some 200 people attended this outdoor day-long event. A CD was created by Library volunteers to memorialize some of the more powerful poetry performances.

#### **Poetry Readings**

Open poetry readings are held at the Library every Sunday at 3 pm during the Spring, Summer and Fall months, the readings are regularly attended by local poets, writers and interested guests. Some readings have been recorded for broadcast through local National Public Radio stations.

#### **Eric Barker Poetry Prize**

Working in conjunction with the English Department at Monterey Peninsula College, HML awards a poetry prize of \$300 to a student selected from the creative writing classes at the College.

#### **Big Sur Watersheds Fair**

This annual summer event focuses on the vitality of the Big Sur bio region as defined by the watersheds for the entire coast. The goal is to educate the public, with special attention given to children, about the bio diversity that makes up this unique coastal area. The two-day educational fair features displays by the Big Sur Natural History Association, the Ventana Wilderness Sanctuary, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Big Creek



Reserve, the Santa Lucia Watersheds Council, the New Camaldoli Hermitage, and other groups and individuals.

The event features water samples for tasting from almost every creek in Big Sur, local jade craftspeople, locally produced and prepared foods, a storytelling circle for children, educational exhibits and games on the natural and cultural history of the bio region, pottery-making from Big Sur clay, and performances by local musicians and poets.

#### **Big Sur Arts Initiative**

A community alternative school that was developed during the El Niño storms (when highway closures shut down local schools), BSAI provides cultural, arts and science activities in a variety of formats for the children of Big Sur. Classes/workshops are taught in schools, in homes and at community centers like the Henry Miller Library. The Library hosted an Escuela del Niño art exhibit this spring.

#### **Workshops**

##### **Annual Children's Writing Workshop**

Sponsored by the Library and led by veteran editor and free-lance agent Andrea Brown, this workshop is geared for writers of children's literature that are receiving serious consideration by a publisher. The workshop offers small group evaluations by editors and published authors with the goal of assisting participants in the final steps in getting their work published. Now in its second year, two of last year's participants have successfully published their children's stories.

##### **Big Sur Painting Workshop**

Teacher Ronna Emmons has led "Hoop of Eight" workshops for painters of all skill levels at the Library. Many of her students have displayed and sold their work at the Library and other local venues.

##### **Poetry Workshop**

Veteran Poetry Slam performing poets will lead a weekend workshop at the Library this fall. The goal is to develop the creative word power of all individuals involved, and to put together a Big Sur poetry team for area poetry competitions.

#### **Exhibits, Performances and Lectures**

The Library offers a variety of musical performances, art exhibits, lectures, slide shows and book signings. Both local and international artists are featured. Events include:

##### **Winter Art Exhibit**

Now in its fifth year, this community exhibit offers over fifty local artists, ranging in age from 7 to 85, the opportunity to show their work during a holiday show each December.

##### **Pacific Rim Sculptors Group Exhibit**

A select group of primarily California Central Coast and San Francisco Bay Area sculptors who display their large scale work under the redwoods in the HML garden during September and October. This year's exhibit is a juried show limited to 15 participants.

##### **Lecture Series**

Lectures on Henry Miller and Big Sur artistic and cultural heritage by HML staff. Tour groups, Elder Hostel groups and hotel and resort guests in Big Sur have participated in this program.

##### **Concerts**

Several musical performances are held during the summer months on the HML lawn. A benefit concert by guitarist, improviser and composer Fred Frith was held this summer. The Library also hosted musical classes and performances by local drumming teacher Jayson Fann and his students.

##### **Community Access to Computer and Internet**

As a result of grants from the Cultural Council for Monterey County, the Nepenthe/Phoenix Corporation, and local businesses and Library supporters, the Library was able to purchase new computer equipment last year. Our computer system is open to Big Sur residents for Internet access, research, and educational use. Prior to our development of this community resource, residents without computers and access to Internet had to travel to the Monterey-Carmel area for service.

**General Community Use**

The Library has also been used by a local Buddhist dharma center, the Big Sur Volunteer Fire Brigade for classes in first aid, and by many people for weddings and memorials.

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# arts & theater.



## Beat Poetry 06/21/01



**The Big Sur Natives spin a primal fantasy out of pulsing rhythms and hypnotic dancing.**

*By Mason Adams*

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### 831 -- Tales from the Area Code

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Imagine a couple passing through Big Sur on their way from San Francisco to L.A., driving past parched yellow grasslands that give way to dark, dank redwoods lining the Big Sur River. On a lark, they decide to spend their Saturday night over food and drink at the River Inn. Only upon entering the lobby do they realize that something is amiss.

They've left their usual world, that of their credit cards, their convertible and their tourist pamphlet hyping the beauty of McWay Falls, to enter a new reality. Inside the musky room, a heavy rhythm pervades the air, filling the crevices of the room and vibrating the bodies of those within it. In the center, accompanied by omnipresent drums, a wailing didgeridoo and an unearthly chanting, a woman dances with a sword. She wears a headdress made of what appears to be the remains of Beowulf's monster Grendel. She moves lightly but sensually, and her body seems linked to something primeval--something not of this world, yet an underlying part of it. The sword flashes, less a prop than an extension of her being.

The couple look at each other, ready to run out the door, yet strangely drawn to the scene. The dancer spins near, engages the man, and before he can help himself he's part of the dance, and then his wife is drawn in, and the entire audience suddenly become participants in the spectacle, a whirling pool of limbs moving in time to the inescapable drums.



The dancing woman is Teresa Bradford, and the drummers behind her are the Big Sur Natives. If you live in Monterey County and have not seen them, you're missing out on one heck of an experience.

The group that has evolved into the Natives started back in 1976. Teresa grew up in Big Sur. She met her husband Brock, one of the central drummers in the group, when he picked her up hitchhiking one day.

Their mutual love for music and for Big Sur led them to start performing with others at local venues, including Nepenthe and Esalen. By 1991, however, the River Inn had more or less become the Natives' permanent home, with only occasional performances outside its cozy confines. Since then the Natives have only grown in popularity. As a result, the price of admission has increased, mainly to reduce the number of attendees. It hasn't worked. At a show in March during a torrential downpour, the Inn was packed from wall to wall, and some would-be audience members stood outside in the rain, sans umbrellas, just to catch a glimpse of the magic inside.

### **The Fair Young Maidens**

Although Teresa deserves credit as the central dancer, she vehemently denies that's her role, instead turning the spotlight to a group of beautiful young women who perform a large portion of the dancing at each show. Most of these girls have gotten into dancing through a class that Teresa teaches each Monday in Big Sur. Like early punk rock groups, these beginning dancers, even without technical skills, do a better job at conveying their feelings than some professional ballet dancers.

"They're just getting their feet into the water," says Teresa. "It's not polished or shiny. Just raw spirit."

"A lot of these girls go on," puts in Brock. "They get inspired and spend the rest of their life dancing." Some of Teresa's students have gone on to study in lands as far away as India and Greece.

"One of my duties is to scratch the surface of the fair young maidens, to stir them up," says Teresa. "We have them only a short time, like flowers that bloom and are gone."

The group is made up mostly of percussionists, but it also incorporates other instruments such as the didgeridoo and a recent addition, a keyboard, that lends a higher-toned ethereal feel to the music. Locals in Big Sur tend to be stubborn, but that tension among the musicians only adds to the mix.

"It's amazing we can ever play together," says Brock.

"Each one of the musicians truly are leaders within themselves," adds Teresa. "There's a strong will there."

Whatever the reason, the dynamic of the group seems to work. At the April show I scoffed at the \$10 admission, preferring to take a free seat on the back porch, only to end up with the rhythm so thoroughly lodged in my bones that I happily paid the ten bucks before the first jam was through.